



OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” in the scientific specialty “**Economics and Management (Agriculture)**”, announced in State Gazette, issue 99 of 21.11.2025, with candidate **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov**

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryana Ivanova**, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8 Economics, Scientific Specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture), appointed as a **member of the Scientific Jury** by Order No. RD 16-137 / 26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Krum Hristov Hristov has held a PhD in Economics since 2018. He has extensive academic and expert experience in the field of agricultural economics and rural development. Since 2010, he has been a lecturer at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, where he teaches various courses at both Bachelor’s and Master’s levels, including courses delivered to international students under the Erasmus programme.

His professional experience includes expert work at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and within the agricultural statistics system, where he participated in coordinating the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) and in the development of measures under the Rural Development Programme. Alongside his academic career, he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the foundation “The Land – Source of Income,” supporting small-scale farmers and the economic development of rural communities.

His scientific output includes publications in internationally refereed journals and participation in national and international scientific forums. His research interests focus on structural changes in the agricultural sector, the development of family farms, the distribution of direct payments, sustainable development, and regional disparities in agriculture. He has participated in numerous international and national research projects funded under Erasmus+, the National Science Fund, FAO, and other initiatives.

By combining academic, research, and applied expertise, the candidate demonstrates consistent professional development and a clearly defined specialization in agricultural policy and rural development.

2. General description of the scientific output

In the competition for “Associate Professor,” Chief Assistant Professor Krum Hristov participates with a total of 25 publications, grouped as follows:

- ❖ **Scientific publications in the relevant specialty – 19, including:**
 - Publications related to the doctoral dissertation, **not subject to evaluation – 4**
 - Publications **with impact factor – 2**
 - Publications **in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 15**
 - Publications **in conference proceedings – 2**

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov to the 19 publications is as follows: 2 are single-authored; in 3 he is first author; in 4 he is second author; and in 10 he is third or subsequent author.

- ❖ *Textbooks – none presented*
- ❖ *Study guides – none presented*
- ❖ ***Monographs – 2***

A total of 21 publications is subject to analysis in this opinion.

3. Teaching activity

According to the submitted documents, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov has 15 years and 11 months of teaching experience. As a member of the academic staff, he develops active teaching activities at both Bachelor's and Master's levels. He delivers lectures and seminars in the following disciplines:

- Agricultural Economics
- Rural Development
- Project Evaluation
- Business Economics
- World Agricultural Economy, etc.

He participates in the development and updating of curricula, applies modern teaching methods, and actively supervises graduate students.

Teaching workload

For the period 2021–2026, his total teaching workload amounts to 5,520.7 hours, delivered to Bachelor's and Master's students, including courses taught in English. His teaching activity includes supervision of 6 successfully defended Bachelor's theses and 18 successfully defended Master's theses.

Published teaching materials

The candidate has not presented information regarding published teaching materials.

Developed curricula

The candidate has not presented information regarding developed curricula.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

Based on the presented publications, clearly defined areas of scientific activity can be identified.

The main thematic area is agricultural economics and structural transformations in the agricultural sector – land concentration, specialization, economic size of holdings, and production restructuring. A significant share of the publications is devoted to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the effects of direct payments.

Another group of publications examines the development of family and small-scale farms, their role in food security and the sustainability of rural areas, as well as institutional barriers to accessing support. The candidate also publishes in the field of regional economics and regional disparities, analyzing interregional differences, income inequality, and the effectiveness of cohesion policy. There are also studies related to sustainable and green development.

Taken together, the areas of publication outline a consistent and clearly profiled research interest in the economic, institutional, and regional dimensions of agricultural sector development in Bulgaria.

Citation and referencing of scientific output

The candidate's scientific production has received international recognition through citations in reputable journals indexed in globally recognized databases, including journals ranked in the second and third quartiles (Q2 and Q3). Five citations are presented, generating 75 points against a required minimum of 50. This demonstrates the scientific relevance, timeliness, and international recognition of his research results.

Participation in research projects

The candidate has active participation in national and international research and educational projects, contributing significantly to the development of his research competence and international visibility. He participates in a project funded by the National Science Fund aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural holdings, as well as in several international initiatives under Erasmus+, including NICOPA, CUPAGIS, and the European University Alliance UNIgreen. His project activities focus on innovation, precision agriculture, internationalization, and sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

5. Remarks and recommendations

I have no remarks regarding the candidate.

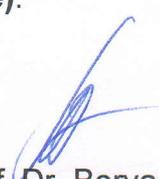
6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, scientific, and applied research activities, I consider that **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov meets the requirements** of the Academic Staff Development Act (ASDA), its Implementing Regulations, and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented data clearly show that he exceeds the minimum national scientometric criteria.

All of the above gives me grounds to assess his overall activity **POSITIVELY**.

I respectfully propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv **elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Krum Hristov Hristov as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)."**

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Plovdiv

Prepared by: 
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